



Stat of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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September 13, 2001

Mr. Dan Powell
Emery Industrial Resources
P. O. Box 489
Price, Utah 84501

Re: Musk Thistle Infestation, Emery Industrial Resources, Cherry Hill Park Quarry, M/049/021, Utah County, Utah

Dear Mr. Powell:

On September 6, 2001, at about 4:00 p.m., Tony Gallegos and I visited the Cherry Hill Park limestone quarry. Since I am new to the minerals program, Tony wanted to show me where the site is, and we basically drove along one side of the site.

I noticed a large amount of musk thistle, a state noxious weed, within the disturbed area. Although the minerals regulations say nothing specifically about controlling noxious weeds during operations, the Utah Noxious Weed Act requires that noxious weeds be controlled and has provisions for land owners who fail to control noxious weeds on their property. Musk thistle is very prolific and infests large areas of central Utah although the undisturbed area around your quarry has only a few plants. If musk thistle or any other noxious weed is allowed to grow in the operations area, seeds will accumulate in the soil and make reclamation much more difficult.

We encourage you to attempt to control this weed; it is not difficult to kill individual musk thistle plants. Musk thistle is a biennial that germinates and grows a circular cluster of leaves, called a rosette, the first year then sends up a seed stalk and flowers the second year. After flowering, the plant dies. It is too late to try to control plants that flowered this year, but it is likely the area has numerous rosettes of plants that will develop seed stalks and flowers next year. The rosettes can be controlled this fall or next spring by digging them or by spraying with an herbicide, such as 2,4-D, at the proper time. If you use an herbicide, be sure to follow label directions.

Controlling this noxious weed now will make revegetation much easier when you decide to reclaim. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 801-538-5261 or Lynn Kunzler at 801-538-5310.

Sincerely,

Paul B. Baker
Senior Reclamation Biologist

jb

cc: Lynn Kunzler
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